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Sustainable development**Letter dated 9 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the final declaration adopted at the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development, which was successfully held in Ashgabat on 10 and 11 December 2014 (see annex).

At the Meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan, proposals were put forward to consider ways and means to strengthen international cooperation with the aim of ensuring the reliable transportation of energy resources and balancing the interests of producers, transit countries and consumers of energy resources, also taking into account suggestions of concerned States, international organizations, the business community and civil society.

Energy is central to development and is linked to nearly every major challenge that the world faces today, including economic development, security, climate change and food security, as well as to increasing income and eradicating poverty. On the other hand, enhanced access to energy presents a unique opportunity for spurring economic growth, creating jobs, eradicating poverty and achieving equity.

In order to gain access to basic energy resources, there is a need for stable, efficient and reliable energy transportation across countries, regions and continents. Turkmenistan, as one of the leading suppliers of energy resources and the owner of the fourth-largest reserves of hydrocarbon resources, has responsibly and consistently called for the establishment of a reliable and stable system of international energy supplies and for the elaboration of schemes and patterns of interaction in the global energy markets that are appropriate in view of the modern realities. Turkmenistan believes that today there is a need for concerted efforts and consensus decisions able to serve as a basis for cooperation on the reliable and stable transit of energy.

On 17 May 2013, the General Assembly, during its sixty-seventh session, adopted a resolution entitled "Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in

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ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation", cosponsored by 71 countries.

The analysis and conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General of August 2014 (A/69/309) consolidated the views of Member States and relevant United Nations agencies and contributed significantly to the work at the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development in Ashgabat.

The outcome of the Meeting is a valuable contribution to international efforts to tackle pressing challenges in the development of reliable and stable access to energy resources.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.

(Signed) Aksoltan Ataeva
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 9 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development

We, the participants in the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 10 and 11 December 2014 pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/263 of 17 May 2013, entitled "Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation", adopt this Declaration and call for enhanced international cooperation, in order to ensure the reliable and stable transit of energy,

Recalling paragraphs 125 and 126 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which recognize the critical role of energy and access to modern energy services in development efforts,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolutions 63/210 and 67/263, entitled "Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation",

Recalling further the outcome of the High-level Conference on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy and its Role in Ensuring Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 23 April 2009,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Secretary-General compiling the views of United Nations Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, on issues relating to the reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation,

Recognizing the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient energy transit transportation systems that link them to the international markets, and in this regard welcoming the Vienna Declaration and Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

Reaffirming our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Decade on Sustainable Energy for All, in 2014-2024, and our readiness to pay due attention to the issue of access to modern energy,

Taking note of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies, and the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its sixty-ninth session entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy", in which the Secretary-General is requested to prepare and submit to the Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the long-term institutional and accountability arrangements for all stakeholders of the above-mentioned initiative,

Taking note also of the ongoing processes within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the implementation of the outcome of the first Asia-Pacific ministerial-level energy forum convened under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Vladivostok in 2013, as well as the modernization of the Energy Charter process, as embodied in the draft international energy charter to be adopted in The Hague in 2015,

Welcoming the recommendation contained in the report of the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals that a stand-alone goal on ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy be included in the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the importance of the regional dimension in ensuring energy security and the sustainable use of energy and the role of the United Nations regional commissions in this regard, as vested in them by paragraph 100 of the outcome document entitled "The future we want",

Concerned that the lack of access to energy and sustainable modern energy services is an important factor that directly affects efforts to eradicate poverty, the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and to advance decent conditions of life and sustainable development in all its three dimensions,

Also deeply concerned that 2.6 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.4 billion people worldwide, in particular the poor, are deprived of sustainable modern services and that, even when such services are available, they cannot afford them,

Noting that stable, efficient environmentally sound and reliable energy transportation, as a key factor of sustainable development, is in the interest of the entire international community, and recognizing the important role of transportation hubs for the reliable and stable transit of energy to international markets,

We, the participants,

Emphasize that improving access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy resources for all is critically important for the eradication of poverty and sustainable development;

Recognize the need for extensive international cooperation for promoting the reliable transportation of energy to international markets through pipelines and other transportation systems;

Recognize also the importance of properly reflecting on energy in the post-2015 development agenda;

Call upon the international community to galvanize efforts to make universal access to energy a reality and use it as a tool to eradicate poverty, improve the quality of life, reduce inequality, save lives, improve health and help to provide for basic human needs, as well as curb environmental risks, including those associated with climate change, and stress that energy access is essential to social inclusion and a key to production;

Call upon United Nations regional commissions to continue to serve as major platforms in their respective regions to support international cooperation on energy

by supporting policy dialogue, shaping strategies and transboundary projects to promote energy connectivity and trade;

Acknowledge that adoption of the international energy charter, scheduled for 2015, will establish a multilateral document that is expected to be relevant to the global issue of transit of energy;

Call upon all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as the private sector, to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy transportation infrastructure in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

Highlight the need for active international cooperation for the development of international legal mechanisms in the field of transit of energy resources, including by broadening the multilateral energy dialogue with the participation of international organizations;

Recognize the holding of the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development as an important step towards enhanced international cooperation on the issue of energy transit;

Underline the importance of continuing to convene international expert meetings on the development of a sustainable energy mechanism on a regular basis and in cooperation with relevant international organizations, and note that the next such meeting is expected to take place in the first half of 2015;

Recall the proposal made at the High-level Conference on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy and its Role in Ensuring Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 23 April 2009, that the United Nations General Assembly be invited to consider the establishment of an ad hoc expert group to prepare recommendations on the development of mutually acceptable modalities for an international legal mechanism on the transit of energy;

Express deep appreciation to the people and the Government of Turkmenistan for hosting the Meeting and providing excellent working conditions and exceptional hospitality to its participants.

Adopted on 11 December 2014 in Ashgabat